



The Trinity Aquifer is the sole source of water for tens of thousands of wells across the Hill Country, including thousands of households in western Travis County.

Current and estimated population increases are projected to exceed the carrying capacity of the aquifer in some locations, resulting in decreased spring-flow and failing groundwater wells.

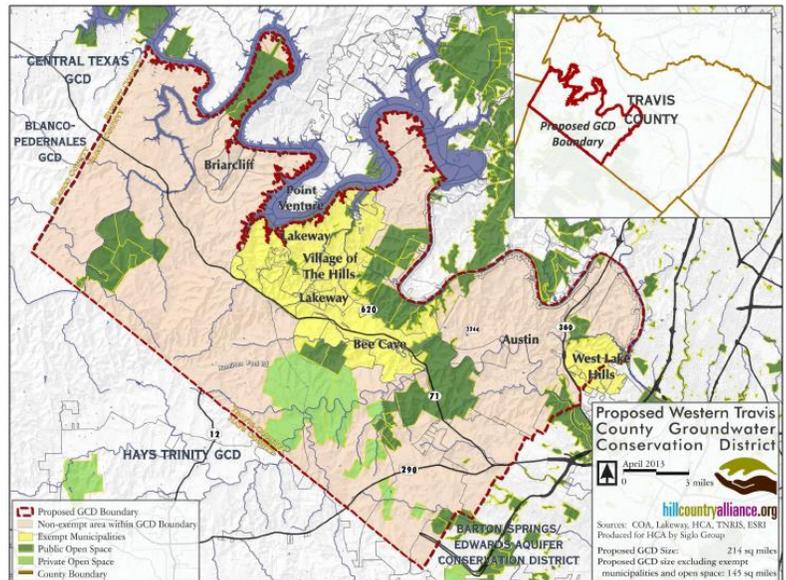
Key facts about the Southwestern Travis County GCD

The District's legislation protects private property rights:

- NO production fees on private domestic wells¹
- NO production fees on wells for agricultural use²
- NO metering of private domestic wells
- NO regulation of private domestic wells
- NO ad-valorem property taxation
- NO powers of eminent domain

The District will benefit local well owners by:

- Requiring permits that reduce negative impacts from major groundwater withdrawals
- Protecting well water from contamination from septic systems by enforcing well spacing requirements
- Protecting well water quality by promoting well drilling and construction (casing) in a professional manner, in accordance with state law
- Providing property owners with information about regional water levels in layers of the aquifer
- Providing property owners information about water quality in their well
- Gathering data on aquifer contribution to river-flow and lake levels
- Local responsibility and control of the aquifer's future viability and drought alert plans
- Local representation at the Hill Country Trinity Aquifer-wide regional planning group meetings



¹ Exempt domestic wells are defined as those that can produce at a rate of no more than 10,000 gallons per day (the average Travis County private well household of 4 uses less than 1,000 gallons per day).

² Exempt livestock and poultry wells are defined as those that can produce no more than 25,000 gallons per day and are on properties larger than 10 acres.

What is the Southwestern Travis County GCD?

The Southwestern Travis County Groundwater Conservation District now pending confirmation by voters is a locally requested and created District with locally elected Directors. The purpose of the District is to manage and protect the water of the Trinity Aquifer beneath southwestern Travis County.

- The mission of the SWTCGCD is to preserve and protect groundwater through conservation, education, and waste prevention.
- The District is designed to be a locally responsive governmental entity that performs data gathering and groundwater management functions, with the ability to regulate certain commercial and non-beneficial (wasteful) groundwater uses.
- Enabling legislation (House Bill 4345) became law in 2017 with bipartisan support of legislators and locally elected officials.
- Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) are the legislature's preferred method for managing aquifers, and the new Southwestern Travis County District will be the 100th GCD in Texas.

How will the GCD work?

The new GCD will be governed by a seven-member locally elected Board of Directors and will be administered per the requirements of the enabling legislation and the GCD Board's management rules in accordance with Chapter 36 of the local government code. The primary purpose of the GCD will be to create a groundwater management plan and monitoring program for groundwater use to manage and protect the long-term productivity of the groundwater resource.

- A temporary Board of Directors has been appointed by locally elected officials to steward the GCD until the confirmation election and the election of Directors on November 5, 2019.
- Residents of the Lakeway, Bee Cave, and portions of West Lake Hills will each elect one Director.
- County residents in unincorporated areas (and Briarcliff) will elect four at-large Directors.
- High volume non-exempt user fees will primarily fund the administration of the District.
- There will be NO NEW TAXES as a result of the District. The District is statutorily prohibited from collecting ad-valorem taxation to fund its work.

Why is a GCD needed?

Population growth and a limited supply of groundwater has put the Trinity Aquifer in danger of depletion, which can result in decreased river and stream flow, limited spring-flow, lowered lake levels, and declining aquifer water tables. Unregulated pumping may strain the productivity of domestic wells, impacting property values, the local economy and natural resources.

Where will this GCD operate?

Southwestern Travis County Groundwater Conservation District boundaries are Lake Austin and Lake Travis on the north, the Travis County line on the west and south, and the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District's western boundary (along Westlake Drive down to the western border of Circle C Ranch) on the east (see map).

Who will be impacted by this GCD?

District residents with wells capable of producing less than 10,000 gallons per day and who use their wells for household needs will be exempt from permitting and metering requirements. The regulated community will be a small set of users who pump much larger amounts of groundwater from the Trinity Aquifer, including irrigated golf courses; commercial and industrial users; MUDs, WCIDs, and public water suppliers on groundwater. All local residents will be positively impacted by the long-term benefits of resource protection.

For more information: <https://www.swtcgcd.org>